

Identified Problem

Baggage Road (SR 2319) currently terminates at US 220. In accordance with the SHC Vision Plan and recommendation ROCK0004-H of this plan, US 220 is recommended to be upgraded to a limited-access freeway facility and signed as Interstate 73. The primary purpose of this recommendation is to provide access and connectivity to US 220/Interstate 73.

Justification of Need

Baggage Road (SR 2319) is a minor collector in the south-central part of Rockingham County. The facility is a vital artery in moving people and goods through this section of Rockingham County, connecting the residents to US 220 and ultimately the Greensboro area. Baggage Road (SR 2319) is currently a 2-lane minor thoroughfare from US 220 to Bald Hill Loop Road (SR 2308). While Baggage Road (SR 2319) is not predicted to exceed capacity by 2035, the improvement of US 220 to a fully-controlled access freeway will prohibit traffic from being able to access this facility.

Community Vision and Problem History

Due to its close proximity to Greensboro, this area of Rockingham County is expected to experience moderate growth into the foreseeable future.

Currently, Baggage Road (SR 2319) connects with US 220 at an at-grade intersection. Per the SHC Vision Plan, US 220 will become future Interstate 73 and all at-grade intersections will be removed. If access is not provided around this area, traffic will have to access US 220/Future I-73 by traveling north to US 311/NC 704 or south to NC 68, creating additional traffic on local roads.

CTP Project Proposal

Project Description

The proposed project (Local ID ROCK0009-H) is to construct a new 2-lane minor thoroughfare from existing Baggage Road (SR 2319) to the recommended interchange at US 220/Future I-74 and Sardis Church Road (SR 1128). The proposed new construction will continue to allow access from existing Baggage Road (SR 2319) to US 220/Future I-74 and Sardis Church Road (SR 1128).

Land Use Patterns

The Rockingham County 2025 Land Use Plan indicates this currently rural area will become a rural transition area with an economic development area near US 220 by 2025. Primarily agricultural and residential development is expected to occur along this corridor with some commercial development around the proposed US 220/Sardis Church Road (SR 1128)-Baggage Road Connector Interchange.

Natural & Human Environmental Context

Based on available GIS data, none of the natural and human environmental features examined as a part of this study were identified in the immediate vicinity of the project.